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FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

The past year has been a new and trying era to our Society. Bereft of its venerated leader, it has been learning to go alone; and we are now met to review the progress and results of this experiment thus far. Just before our last anniversary, the great champion of our cause had fallen a martyr to his zeal; and this event, coupled with the pecuniary embarrassments of the country, and the pressure upon the benevolent of other claims more fully appreciated, tended strongly to discouragement. Its founder and president, its most devoted servant, its most popular and powerful advocate, its last resort for the supply of its pecuniary wants, Mr. Ladd was justly regarded by all as the Society's chief support. To him it owed almost every thing; and it might well seem as if its success, if not its very existence, depended on the continuance of his life. So its foes openly said, and many of its best friends secretly feared; nor should any of us have been disappointed to find the cause, under a stroke so sudden and severe, languishing for years.

Our fears, however, have been happily disappointed. Its earthly champion has died; but the cause itself, under the guardianship of its Almighty Friend in heaven, still lives in growing vigor and prosperity. In spite of every obstacle and discouragement, we have held on the even tenor of our way, and extended rather than curtailed our operations. We have had in our service more persons than heretofore; we have raised for the cause nearly as much money as in any former year, and more than in the year immediately preceding; we have spread before the community a larger amount of publications than usual, and have also set at work some other agencies that promise in the end results of great and lasting importance.

NEW ORGANIZATION OF THE SOCIETY.—Our last anniversary occurred so soon after the death of our late lamented President, that the Society deferred the election of a successor to a special meeting in October, when the present incumbent was chosen with much unanimity, and a Stationary Agency established to transact the multifarious business of the Society at its centre, to make collections not only in this city, but in other seaports, and act in general as its local representative and superintendent. To this service, deemed essential to the successful prosecution of our enterprise, our present Treasurer was chosen, and entered on the duties of his office early in last December. Thus far, he has necessarily been much occupied with its incipient details, and found less time than was desirable for soliciting funds; but the degree of success attendant on his efforts even in these times

of depression and fear, affords reason to expect, on the return of better days, a much more liberal support for a cause so essential to the prosperity of business in all its departments. Our agent has met with encouragement quite equal to his expectations; but the importance of his agency is not to be estimated solely, if mainly, by the amount of its immediately visible results.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.—The year has been extremely unfavorable to raising funds; nor have we, during most of the time, had our usual number of agencies at work for this purpose. Still we have received from various sources a sum larger than our receipts the preceding year, and expended more in publications, agencies, and other methods of promoting the cause.

Our expenditures have been increased not only in consequence of our enlarged operations, but still more from the necessity of paying for services that Mr. Ladd used to perform without charge.* It is well known, that he always gave his time and travelling expenses; but few men have like him the ability, and fewer still the disposition, to support themselves in such a labor of love, and therefore must either decline the service of our Society, or depend on its funds for a living. There is no other alternative, and this necessarily increases our expenditures; but we have still practised a degree of economy that has enabled us, at a very small expense, to spread through the community a large amount of information and influence on the subject of peace.

AGENCIES.—Besides the occasional, gratuitous services of local agents in different parts of the land, we have had four persons in our employ,—J. P. BLANCHARD, as Treasurer and General Agent at the bureau of the Society; Rev. GEORGE C. BECKWITH, as Corresponding Secretary, to conduct its correspondence, superintend its publications, and act as travelling lecturer whenever and wherever his duties as Secretary and editor would permit; Rev. D. O. MORTON and Rev. T. H. MILLER, as Agents, to deliver lectures and addresses, to solicit funds, and promote the cause by circulating our publications, and such other methods as they found practicable, and deemed expedient.

Of the labors performed by these servants of the Society, we shall not attempt a minute account. To those of Mr. Blanchard we have already alluded; but those of Messrs. Morton and Miller we are unable to state in detail. Mr. Miller has been but a short time in our service and labored only in the vicinity of Portsmouth, N. H. Mr. Morton traversed the interior of Massachusetts, and thence passed into Vermont

* We refer to his labors as agent and lecturer. The services of *all* our officers are of course gratuitous; nor does his successor, any more than Mr. Ladd himself, receive any compensation for his labors or travelling expenses.

and New Hampshire, where he met with a reception uniformly kind, and with as much pecuniary success as the times would permit us to expect. The reports of his labors, given occasionally in our periodical, will supersede the necessity of any farther details here, and show our friends that he was both zealous and successful. We very much regret the discontinuance of his services; but the circumstances of his family have induced him to exchange his agency for a pastoral charge. No agent of ours has been more acceptable to the people; but, while we lament his withdrawal from our service, we rejoice in the assurance that he will spontaneously continue to do for the cause whatever the duties of his present office may permit.

The Secretary, besides superintending the correspondence and publications of the Society, has been constantly employed in lecturing on the subject of peace. To this service his time and strength have been mainly devoted; and during the year he has travelled nearly five thousand miles, and delivered an average of some four or five lectures a week.

PUBLICATIONS.—In this department we have the past year done more than usual. Besides issuing new editions of our nine stereotyped tracts, of Dymond on War, and Hancock on Peace, those master pieces of their kind, we have published lately 5000 copies of our periodical, republished from the Democratic Review 2000 copies of an able and well-timed article in behalf of our cause, and stereotyped the principal part of Professor Upham's masterly volume on Peace; the largest and most valuable contribution in a single work to our cause since the days of Erasmus; a book whose beauty of style, extent of research, and force, variety and richness of argument and illustration, ought to procure for it a place in the library, if not of every professional or educated man, certainly of every Christian minister in the land. It is just the work for all Christians of cultivated, reflecting minds; and we earnestly hope it will soon secure a wide, if not general circulation. Already have the Rhode Island Peace Society taken one hundred copies for gratuitous distribution among the ministers and other leading minds of that State; and we trust our friends in other parts of the country will ere-long follow their example, and let this eloquent and powerful advocate of peace plead our cause, if not through the whole land, at least over all the hills, and through all the valleys of New England.

During the past year, we have been indebted more than usual to the periodical press. Some of our ablest political papers have boldly advocated our sentiments; and, besides articles in other works of the same class, the Democratic Review, with a circulation reaching the extremities of our country, published one article on the *Peace Movement*, and another on the *Life and Character of the late William*

Ladd, both warmly and eloquently in favor of our cause. We cannot say to what extent the secular prints have enlisted in its behalf; but we happen to know, that some of our friends made arrangements for having a short, pithy article inserted every week in two papers published in two neighboring seaports. Such facts we cannot let pass without emphatic notice; for, when such periodicals as the *Democratic Review*, and such papers as the *Boston Courier* and the *New York Journal of Commerce*, spontaneously, frankly and fearlessly plead our cause, we must, in gratitude to God, and justice to the community, hail it as an omen of good, and decisive evidence of far more progress having already been made than most men believe or even suspect.

The religious press has long been our ally; but, within the last six months, it has been more active in our cause than for years before. Some of our friends prepared a series of weekly articles extending through nearly four months; and we have ascertained, that those articles were simultaneously published in ten,—how many more, we know not,—of the religious papers in different parts of our country. We regret that any newspaper, devoted to a religion of peace, should refuse or neglect to plead such a cause as ours; but we are glad to acknowledge our special obligations to most of them in rendering such cheerful and efficient aid, and trust the day is fast approaching when they will all co-operate in this enterprise as they now do in behalf of temperance or of missions. Let them do so; and it is in the power of the religious press alone to arrest any war with which our land shall ever be threatened.

It is difficult, if not impossible, to estimate how much matter we have in all these ways thrown before the community. What we have issued from our own press in periodicals, tracts, and volumes, may be equivalent to nearly 1,500,000 ordinary tract pages. We leave out of our account all that has been published by the secular press; but of the ten religious papers we have mentioned as our known coadjutors, some have a circulation of 15,000, and it might perhaps be safe to reckon the average number of their subscribers 5000 each. On this calculation, they would circulate of every article 50,000 copies; and, should we suppose each paper to be read by five persons, they would together reach 250,000 minds, and probably spread before them all an aggregate of matter equal to some 2,500,000 tract pages. We do not presume upon the accuracy of this calculation; but the lowest estimate possible would prove, beyond a doubt, that much good has thus been done with very little expense to the Society. Should we reckon all that has during the past year been published in this country on the subject of peace, the sum total would reach four, if not five millions of tract pages; a mass of facts, arguments and appeals that cannot fail to exert a wide and powerful influence on the public mind.

Among the collateral influences at work in favor of our cause, we would record the fact, that leading minds are spontaneously coming to its advocacy. Some of the best writers in England, such as Dr. HARRIS and Dr. CAMPBELL, authors of almost unrivalled popularity and influence in the religious circles there, have lent it the sanction of their names, and the fascination of their eloquence. WILLIAM JAY, son of the immortal John Jay, has published a book on *Peace and War*; a work of great beauty and power, that must, from its character, as well as its source, command attention, respect and influence. Causes thus in concert with our enterprise are continually multiplying through the world, and proving that the Almighty Ruler of the nations is at work every where for its furtherance, and its final triumph over the whole earth.

AUXILIARY MOVEMENTS.—We have had in different parts of the land active co-workers, but few auxiliary societies. Of late years, we have abstained from urging the formation of such societies; but we always hail them with pleasure, and welcome them to our ranks. Such an organization was last winter formed under favorable auspices in Portsmouth, N. H., the place of Mr. Ladd's death and burial. The friends of peace in the city of New York, who have always taken a very active part in behalf of a Congress of Nations, recently held a public meeting in that great emporium, and have since taken measures for organizing a society auxiliary to ours. There ought to be, in every one of our important seaports, a similar nucleus around which the interest in our cause there might cluster, and make itself felt to far greater effect. Cities are pre-eminently interested in its success; they have peculiar facilities for promoting it; and they ought every where to be leagued for the abolition of a custom which concentrates upon them the hottest and heaviest thunderbolts of its wrath. Some half dozen leading cities in Christendom could, if they would, keep the peace of the civilized world. A plan of co-operation among them for this purpose has been suggested; but no decisive steps have yet been taken to carry it into effect.

A CONGRESS OF NATIONS.—In this department we have made no special effort, but have kept it through our periodical before the community, called public attention to it in other ways, and not only sent ourselves, but invited others to send, petitions to Congress in behalf of this highly important object. We had reason to hope, from pledges given by some of its leading members, that our national legislature would have resumed this subject at its present session; but the party excitement there and elsewhere makes us despair of seeing them very soon turn their attention in earnest to a proposal the most important perhaps that ever came before any body of rulers; a proposal to stay for ever the wholesale butcheries of war by applying, for the adjustment of dif-

difficulties between nations, the same principles that have so long and so successfully been adopted by individuals for the settlement of theirs. The chameleons of the passing hour may sneer, if they will, at the idea of extending Christianity, or law, or common sense to nations, as if these were barbarians or brutes altogether beyond the reach of such appliances; but we are quite willing to stake our own reputation for sagacity on the prediction of a day when men, the world over, will wonder why such principles were not always applied alike to individuals and to communities.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS.—Our friends abroad, especially in France and England, have been prosecuting our common enterprise with increased energy and success. The London Society has sent agents not only through England, but to the continent; and its mission to Paris was immediately followed by results highly auspicious. The Society of Christian Morals instituted a new Committee on Peace, issued proposals for a prize essay, and opened a fresh correspondence with the friends of the cause in other countries. From the tone of their communications to us, we should expect a vigorous prosecution of our common cause; and we hear quite recently, that a large number of competitors appeared for the prize they offered last winter. The public mind in France seems waking to some aspects of this subject. No less than five journals in Paris, and nearly twenty in the interior, have recently advocated a league or agreement between France and some other neighboring nations, whereby their respective troops may be withdrawn from watching each other, and be employed on public works, yet ready still for military service at any emergency; a measure resembling in its outline our plan for a Congress of Nations. The essay to which the London Society awarded a premium of one hundred guineas, has been published, but not yet received in this country. With pleasure and gratitude, however, we acknowledge the receipt from that Society of an entire set of its able and interesting periodical, the *London Herald of Peace*, from its origin in 1817 to this time, designed for the use of Harvard University. We wish it were in the Society's power to furnish all our principal colleges and professional seminaries with the same work.

PROPOSED CONFERENCE AMONG THE FRIENDS OF PEACE.—We deem it very desirable, that there should be a more perfect understanding and co-operation among the friends of peace through the world; and, when our excellent friend from England, JOSEPH STURGE, was in Boston last summer, a special meeting was called for consultation on the subject. The meeting had a very pleasant interchange of views, and recommended, that a General Conference of the Friends of Peace from different countries should be held in London at the earliest convenience. The arrangements are not yet completed; but such a conference may be expected in the course of a year or two.

MEMOIR AND MONUMENT OF MR. LADD.—We regret that this expected work has been so long delayed; but we allude now to the subject mainly for the purpose of saying, that we have no responsibility for the delay. We promptly and warmly recommended the measure; but, as the documents requisite for its execution belong to others, we can have no control in the case. Still we know the wishes and purposes of Mr. Ladd's relatives, and are happy to assure his friends in both hemispheres, that a full biography will eventually be given to the public.

In gratitude for his services, our Society have erected, in the cemetery of Portsmouth, N. H., a plain, yet beautiful monument to the memory of our late President, bearing this simple inscription :

WILLIAM LADD,

BORN,—MAY 10, 1778. DIED,—APRIL 9, 1841.

AGED 63.

"Blessed are the peace-makers; for they shall be called the children of God."

CHANGE IN OUR ANNIVERSARY EXERCISES.—Finding that our object requires something more than brief, popular speeches, and wishing to give some of the master-minds already interested in our cause, an opportunity to do justice to the subject and themselves, we have deemed it best to try the experiment of having the time of our annual meeting occupied with a single address from one selected for the service, and devoting to it his best thoughts and energies.

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